

Timeline of Huntington History

- 1653 April 2: First purchase of land from the Matinecock, establishing the Town of Huntington (Town governed by a “New England” style Town meeting)
- 1656 July 30: Second purchase of land from the Matinecock, adding eastern portion of Huntington
- 1657 First school established; Jonas Holdsworth, teacher
- 1658 Old First Church founded, the oldest religious institution in Huntington (Rev. William Leverich, the first minister from 1658-1669, was also Huntington’s first miller)
Thomas Powell began service as the first recorder (Town Clerk)
- 1663 April 6: John Lome (Lum or Lume) chosen as the first constable
- 1664 British gain control of Manhattan and Long Island from the Dutch, establishing governance by the Duke of York; Duke’s Laws govern the lives of Huntington residents until 1669
- 1665 Old First Church constructed Huntington’s first “meeting house” in accordance with Duke’s Laws at the NW corner of Meeting House Brook (now Prime Ave.) and Main St.
- 1666 Nov. 30, Governor Richard Nicolls issued patent defining Huntington’s territory & boundaries
Town was inhabited by 57 freeholders and heads of families
- 1683 Governor Thomas Dongan convened representative assembly and established Suffolk County
- 1684 Town was inhabited by 84 freeholders and heads of families
- 1688 Governor Thomas Dongan issued new Town charter, authorizing governing body of elected trustees
- 1694 April 9: Huntington’s first seven Trustees elected.
- 1694-99 John Adams served as the first Town Supervisor
- 1715 Old First Church constructed new meeting house at current location (125 Main St.)
- 1748 St. John’s Episcopal Church built on East Street (now Park Ave.) in Huntington
- 1752 Tide mill built by Dr. Zophar Platt, first physician in Huntington
- 1759 June 29: Town’s first public library formed with 115 books, 39 members, and Rev. Ebenezer Prime as the “Library Keeper;” library dissolved in 1768, but re-established intermittently in 1801, 1817, 1843, & 1869
- 1761 Country’s first publication of poems by an African American – Lloyd family slave Jupiter Hammon
- 1762 The last “Indian Deed” with the Matinecock settles lingering questions about prior purchases of Indian lands
- 1774 June 21: Huntington Declaration of Rights adopted
- 1776 July 22: Declaration of Independence read on the Village Green; Huntington Liberty Flag first raised
Aug.22-29: Huntington members of the Suffolk Co. Militia participated in the Battle of Long Island, a British victory; the original Huntington Liberty Flag is captured by the Hessians
Sept. 1: Occupation of Huntington by British began; it would last until March 1783.
Mid-Sept.: Capt. Nathan Hale landed on the shore of Huntington Bay at the start of his tragic spy mission; captured just a few days later, he was executed in New York City on Sept. 22, 1776.
- 1781 July 12: A combined force of French and American vessels and infantry sailed across Long Island Sound and unsuccessfully attacked Fort Franklin on Lloyd’s Neck
Oct. 2-3: 100 American soldiers crossed Long Island Sound and launched a successful early morning raid on British Fort Slongo. Sgt. Elijah Churchill, who led the charge, was wounded and became the first recipient of General Washington’s newly created Badge of Military Merit, now known as the Purple Heart.
- 1782 Nov. 16: Col. Benjamin Thompson, an American loyalist in charge of British troops, orders the Old First Church demolished and uses the lumber to build Fort Golgotha on the Town Burying Ground on Main Street

- 1783 March: British occupation of Huntington ends; Fort Golgotha is torn down by residents
- 1784 Old First Presbyterian Church is rebuilt on its 1715 site
- 1786 First Huntington slave freed by decree in his owner's will
- 1790 April 23: President Washington had dinner at Platt's Tavern on the SE corner of Main St. and Park Ave. in Huntington during his April 20-24 tour of Long Island (Huntington's population was 2,000)
- 1799 NY State adopts Manumission Act with procedure for owners, prior to their death, to voluntarily free slaves
- 1800 First Huntington slave freed under the NY State Manumission Act
- 1810 Census records Huntington's population as 4,424
- 1816 First organized fire department formed
- 1816-20 Cold Spring Harbor woolen mills built; one for carding and spinning, and one for weaving and fulling
- 1827 Slavery abolished in New York State
- 1828 Huntington Methodist Church purchased property on Main St. in Huntington and began construction
- 1835 St. John's Episcopal Church built in Cold Spring Harbor by Oliver Smith Sammis, builder & architect
- 1836 July 18: First whaling voyage from Cold Spring Harbor began with the sailing of the *Monmouth*
Universalist Church first established at 6 Nassau Rd., Huntington.
- 1838 Walt Whitman began publishing *The Long-Islander*
- 1839 John Wood's General Store ledger records coal shipment unloaded in Huntington, marking the beginning of the Town's transition from cord wood to this new energy source
- 1842 Cold Spring Harbor Methodist Church is established (merged with Huntington Methodist Church in 1975)
- 1843 Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, the Town's first African American church, is established
- 1849 Roman Catholic Church in West Neck established on the present site of St. Patrick's Cemetery (burned down in 1867 and rebuilt on SE corner of Anderson Place and Main St., renamed as St. Patrick's Church)
- 1851 Huntington Rural Cemetery is established
- 1852 Steamboats sailed from Lloyd's dock, Cold Spring Harbor
- 1858 October: The *Alice* departs Cold Spring Harbor on the last whaling voyage from this port
First Huntington Union Free School completed; 26 graduates in first class
- 1862 June: The *Alice* returns to Cold Spring Harbor ending the last whaling voyage from this port
Aug. 16: Answering President Lincoln's July 1 call for additional troops during the Civil War, Hewitt J. Long & George S. Sammis begin mustering Company E of the 127th Regiment in Huntington
- 1864 Central (Second) Presbyterian Church established
- 1868 Jan. 13: Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) begins service to Huntington
Fayette Gould, first woman to be elected Town Clerk
Huntington Baptist Church established
- 1872 March 13: NY State Legislature passed act authorizing separation of the southern portion of the Town to form the new Town of Babylon; Huntington's Board of Trustees implemented land transfer on Jan. 3, 1873
NY State abolished the separate office of "Trustee," transferring Town governance to a six-member Town Board (Supervisor, Town Clerk, and four justices of the peace.)
First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn established
The family of Simon Hirschfeld became the first Jewish family to settle in Huntington

- 1875 January: Mrs. Mary Talmadge starts Huntington Library Association; opens library May 17th in Issac Adam's store with Miss Mina Downs as first librarian.
- 1879(86?) December: Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Association formed; Association's new building constructed at 228 Main St. (Huntington) opens in 1893 (1892?) as Town's first dedicated library building
- 1887 First volume of Huntington Town records is compiled, transcribed and published by Charles R. Street
- 1885 25 Huntington subscribers petitioned for telephone switchboard
- 1893 Huntington Gas and Electric received permit to install electricity
- 1894 Village of Northport is incorporated
- 1898 Electric trolley line established in Huntington
- 1899 Samuel Ballton is acclaimed as "Greenlawn's Pickle King" for growing 1.5 million pickles in one season
- 1903 Huntington Historical Society founded on the occasion of Huntington's 250th Anniversary
- 1906 Huntington Jewish Center, Huntington's first synagogue, established
- 1908 First Vanderbilt Cup Race for autos on the new Vanderbilt Parkway
Huntington's first public park and beach (Halesite Park) opened
St. Peter's Lutheran Church established
- 1910 First Huntington Town Hall constructed for this purpose is built at 227 Main St., Huntington
William K. Vanderbilt II begins construction of "Eagle's Nest" estate in Centerport (completed 1935)
Evergreen Baptist Church established
- 1913 John Trainer, Huntington's first regular policeman is hired
St. Hugh of Lincoln Church established
- 1915 Joseph Cantrell built and sold the forerunner of the station wagon, a "depot wagon"
- 1916 Huntington Hospital built on land donated by Cornelia Prime
- 1917 *The Long-Islander* reported 26 men responded to Pres. Wilson's call to serve in U.S. Naval Reserve
New York Ave. is paved from the Train Station to Main St., becoming the Town's first paved road
Women in the Trade School canning kitchen put up 5,000 jars of fruit & vegetables for the war effort
- 1920 Census records Huntington's population as 13,893
August Heckscher dedicates and opens to the public his new art museum in Heckscher Park
- 1924 Village of Huntington Bay is incorporated
- 1925 Village of Asharoken is incorporated
- 1926 Village of Lloyd Harbor is incorporated
- 1927 Motor buses replace the Electric Trolley in Huntington
- 1928 Huntington's first Planning Board is appointed
- 1933 Adoption of Huntington's first Comprehensive Plan
August 1: The position of Town Clerk was dropped from the Town Board, reducing its membership to five.
- 1934 Huntington's first zoning ordinance is adopted
- 1936 Whaling Museum Society founded to preserve history of Cold Spring Harbor's whaling era
- 1938-45 Bertha Rembaugh served as Huntington's first woman Justice of the Peace
- 1942 Whaling Museum Society opens Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum on present site at 279 Main St.

- 1949 Richard H. Robertson hired as Huntington's first black policeman; serves with the Huntington Police Dept. until 1960 when it is merged into the Suffolk County Police Dept. (SCPD); retires from SCPD in 1970 as Sgt.
- 1950 Census records Huntington's population as 47,506
Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum opens to the general public on his former estate, "Eagles Nest"
- 1952 Temple Beth El established
- 1953 West Hill Baptist Church established
- 1956 St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church established
- 1957 First Church of Christ, Scientist established
- 1960 Jan. 1: Huntington Police Department merges into the newly created Suffolk County Police Department
- 1962-65 Ruth F. Corcoran served as Huntington's first woman to be elected to the Town Board
- 1966 Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church established in Centerport
- 1980 Census records Huntington's population as 201,512
- 2000 Census records Huntington's population as 195,289

(as of 8/1/08)